



Tesoro Alaska Company P.O. Box 3369 Kenai, Alaska 99611-3369 907 776 8191 907 776 5546 Fax

April 9, 2007

Office of Global Security and Supply Office of Fossil Energy U.S. Department of Energy Forrestal Building Room 3E-042, FE-34 1000 Independence Avenue, SW. Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Protest and Comments and Request for Additional Procedures

Conoco Phillips Alaska Natural Gas Corporation and Marathon Oil Company; Application for Blanket Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas, FE Docket No. 07-02-LNG

To Whom It May Concern:

Tesoro Corporation and its subsidiary Tesoro Alaska Company respectfully file the enclosed Comments, Protest, Motion to Intervene and Motion for Additional Procedures to the referenced Application.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Tesoro Alaska Company

Stephen W. Hansen

Vice President, Refining

Attachment

BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C.

ROBIN O. BRENA, OWNER
JESSE C. BELL, OF COUNSEL
KEVIN G. CLARKSON, OF COUNSEL
DAVID W. WENSEL, OF COUNSEL
ANTHONY S. GUERRIERO, OF COUNSEL
PAULA T. VRANA, OF COUNSEL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

810 N Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Telephone: (907) 258-2000 Facsimile: (907) 258-2001 Web Site: Brenalaw.com Email: Rbrena@brenalaw.com

April 9, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE AND DHL EXPRESS MAIL

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APR - 9 2007

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Office of Global Security and Supply Office of Fossil Energy U.S. Department of Energy Forrestal Building Room 3E-042, FE-34 1000 Independence Avenue, SW. Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Comments, Protest, Motion to Intervene and

Motion for Additional Procedures

ConocoPhillips Alaska Natural Gas Corporation and Marathon Oil Company; Application for Blanket Authorization To Export Liquefied Natural Gas, FE Docket No. 07-02-LNG

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tesoro Corporation and its subsidiary, Tesoro Alaska Company, respectfully file the enclosed Comments, Protest, Motion to Intervene and Motion for Additional Procedures with regard to the above-referenced Application.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C.

By Robin O. Brana
Robin O. Brena

ROB:alm Enclosures

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2	DEPARTMEN	ES OF AMERICA T OF ENERGY DSSIL ENERGY
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4	In the matter of:))
5	ConocoPhillips Alaska Natural Gas Corporation and Marathon Oil Company) FE Docket No. 07-02-LNG
6	Application for Blanket Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas	
7)
8	AND MOTION FOR ADD	MOTION TO INTERVENE DITIONAL PROCEDURES RPORATION AND
9		SKA COMPANY
10	Tesoro Corporation, and its subsidiar	y, Tesoro Alaska Company (collectively
11	"Tesoro"), through their counsel, Brena, Bel	l & Clarkson, P.C., and pursuant to 10 C.F.R
12	Part 590, hereby submit their comments to a	nd protest of the Application for Blanket
13	Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural C	Gas ("Export Application") of ConocoPhillips
14	Alaska Natural Gas Corporation ("ConocoP	hillips") and Marathon Oil Company
15	("Marathon"). Further, Tesoro moves to inte	ervene in the above-captioned docket and
16	moves for additional procedures, as hereinal	fter specified. The facts upon which Tesoro
17	claims an interest in this matter, and the fact	and legal basis for Tesoro's position, is
18	set forth below.	
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BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C. IN STREET UITE 100 ANRAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2000	TESORO'S COMMENTS, PROTEST AND INITIAL MOTIONS FE Docket No. 07-02-LNG (April 9, 2007) Page 1	

A. COMMENTS AND PROTEST.

1. Summary of Comments and Protest.

Natural gas supplies in Southcentral Alaska are presently insufficient to meet the local residential, commercial, industrial, and export gas requirements during winter months. Shortages occurred during November and December 2006 that impacted Tesoro's Alaska operations and the supplies relied upon by Tesoro's customers. Based upon Tesoro's experiences over the past winter, it appears reasonable, necessary and consistent with the public interest to make any liquefied natural gas ("LNG") exports conditional on first meeting the region's own vital residential, commercial, and industrial natural gas requirements. The export of natural gas at a time when industrial operations are being reduced and threatened due to lack of supply should be avoided.

Tesoro has contracted with Marathon ("Marathon Supply Contract") to supply natural gas to Tesoro's Kenai, Alaska Refinery ("Kenai Refinery"). Marathon has been unable to meet Tesoro's natural gas supply needs during the months of November and December 2006. This reduced level of supply has significantly impacted Tesoro's operations and has resulted in significant economic loss, as well as reduction in the supply of propane to Alaskan customers during the winter. These supply reductions occurred at a time when the largest industrial user of natural gas, Agrium U.S., Inc. ("Agrium") was

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Page 2

BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C.

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not in operation. Marathon explained the curtailments as necessary to meet its other contractual obligations due to high winter demand, as well as noting that the Marathon Supply Contract allows Marathon to curtail deliveries to Tesoro in order to meet its obligations to supply gas to its Kenai LNG facility. This explanation indicates that Marathon does not now have the available production and storage capacity to meet the needs of its domestic customers in Alaska during periods of high demand while continuing to make exports of gas to its foreign customers.

Based upon Tesoro's recent experiences of shortages in supply from Marathon, it appears that at least some of the Cook Inlet natural gas which ConocoPhillips and Marathon propose to export from Alaska to Japan—or to other Pacific Rim countries—will be needed to meet the local demand in Alaska, and if exported, will result in a further shortage of natural gas supplies for domestic Alaskan use. Tesoro protests the Export Application to the extent that the proposed export of LNG threatens the adequacy of natural gas supply for domestic use in Alaska as not consistent with the public interest.

2. Legal Standard Applicable to Export Permit Applications.

The United States Department of Energy ("DOE") and its Office of Fossil Energy ("OFE") has the obligation to review export applications pursuant to Section 3 of the

See Export Application at 13 for the history of the operation of Agrium's ammonia-urea fertilizer plant. Agrium's Fertilizer Plant is located near Kenai, Alaska, adjacent to the Kenai Refinery and the ConocoPhillips/Marathon LNG facility.

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Natural Gas Act ("NGA"),² as amended by Section 201 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992,³ and the authority contained in DOE Delegation Order Nos. 0204-111 and 0204-127. Under Section 3 of the NGA, the DOE/OFE is required to deny an export application if it finds that the exportation "will not be consistent with the public interest."⁴

DOE Delegation Order No. 0204-111 clarifies the public interest at stake by requiring that exports "shall" be regulated "based on a consideration of the domestic need for the gas to be exported and such other matters as the Administrator finds in the circumstances of a particular case to be appropriate." The DOE/OFE also has the discretionary authority to grant an export application "in whole or in part, with such modification and upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may find necessary or appropriate."⁵

3. Tesoro Background.

Tesoro employs over 600 Alaskans in the operation of its Alaska assets, including its Kenai Refinery, which has operated since 1969 and has the capacity to process 72,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The operation of Tesoro's Kenai Refinery has a significant

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² 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

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Pub. L. 102-486 (1992).

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⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

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⁵ 15 U.S.C. § 717b(a).

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BRENA, BELL & C! ARKSON, P.C. N STREET UITE 100 ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2000 positive impact upon the economy of the State of Alaska, as well as that of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.⁶

Tesoro's Kenai Refinery is the sole in-state manufacturer of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, and a major source of supply for the State's gasoline and jet fuel demand. The continued expansion of the Anchorage Airport as an international cargo transportation hub has been dependent, in large part, on the reliable supply of jet fuels from Tesoro and the State's other refiners. Tesoro also markets propane, marine fuel products, and home heating oil to Alaskan customers, including end users and distributors.

The Kenai Refinery relies heavily on the availability of natural gas as both a feedstock and a fuel source for the operation of the processing units within the Kenai Refinery. The Kenai Refinery uses natural gas to both heat and power the refining process, including electric and steam generation, as well as to produce hydrogen feedstock for Tesoro's hydrocracker unit - a unit that allows the Kenai Refinery to meet Alaska's motor and jet fuel demand.

4. Marathon Supply Shortages.

Up until the winter of 2006-2007, Tesoro's supply of natural gas under the Marathon Supply Contract was met each month, including supplies needed during the winter of 2005–2006 when Agrium's Fertilizer Plant was in operation. The reliability of

⁶ Tesoro's Kenai Refinery is the Kenai Peninsula Borough's largest source of property tax revenue.

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⁷ Export Application at 13.

8 <u>Id</u>.

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2006, shortly after Agrium shut down its Fertilizer Plant operations for the winter. At the beginning of November 2006, Marathon reduced Tesoro's natural gas supply to the Kenai Refinery, first from a requested 16,000 mmbtu per day to 11,000 per day, then to 8,000, and then to 7,000. This pattern of natural gas supply curtailment continued during

the natural gas supply to the Kenai Refinery changed in November and December of

December 2006, with significant differences between the daily supply requests made by Tesoro and those delivered by Marathon.

The Export Application describes Agrium's Fertilizer Plant natural gas requirements as averaging 54 Bcf per year during the period of 1980-2002, and thereafter decreasing in 2003 and 2004 when fertilizer operations were reduced by approximately 20%. The Export Application further represents that "[i]n 2005, Agrium shut down additional capacity at the plant thereby reducing plant capacity to 50% On October 23, 2006, Agrium shut down its plant for winter 2006-2007."

On November 3, 2006, only two weeks after Agrium's Fertilizer Plant shutdown, Marathon began to reduce its gas deliveries to Tesoro, despite the logical assumption that there should have been a large excess of natural gas available due to the Agrium shutdown. As the gas supply curtailments continued throughout November and into December 2006 (until around Christmas) Tesoro was forced to increase its electricity

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purchases, and divert normally valuable Kenai Refinery products (such as ultra-low sulfur diesel, propane and butane) to use as Kenai Refinery fuel, instead of its normal blending of these products into heating and motor fuels for distribution to its customers. During this period, Tesoro's natural gas supply was reduced by 42% below its required volumes.

The financial impacts of this natural gas shortage were significant. During the period November 3, 2006, until December 24, 2006, the reduced supply of natural gas had a direct cost impact to Tesoro of almost \$3.5 million, or an average of approximately \$67,500 per day. These expenses included an estimated extra \$91,000 in electricity costs, approximately \$347,000 in lost revenue related to burning of ultra-low sulfur diesel as Kenai Refinery fuel in lieu of natural gas, and approximately \$3 million from the use of butane as a fuel gas versus as a gasoline component. An illustration of the sequence of events and cutbacks of gas supplied under the Marathon Supply Contract are presented in the table attached hereto as Appendix A.

5. Conclusion.

Tesoro has experienced significant shortages in natural gas supplies during this past winter. Tesoro's experience is contrary to the representations made by ConocoPhillips and Marathon in their Export Application that there is an adequate natural gas supply in the Cook Inlet region to support local needs, as well as to export as LNG. The shortages that Tesoro experienced during this past winter are a relatively small percentage of the volume being sought for export. As a result, Tesoro requests that any

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export permit volume be adjusted or conditioned to ensure that adequate supplies are available for the residential, commercial, and industrial users of Southcentral Alaska.

Exports of LNG produced from Alaska's natural resources should not be authorized at the expense of threatening the viability of existing value-added manufacturing, Alaska jobs, and fuel supplies in the State of Alaska.

B. Motion to Intervene.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R § 590.303, Tesoro hereby moves to intervene in the above-captioned docket. As stated in more detail above, Tesoro purchases large volumes of natural gas from the natural gas producing fields in the Cook Inlet of Alaska for use in its Kenai Refinery. Tesoro's Kenai Refinery represents not only a significant financial interest in Alaska for Tesoro, but also has a huge positive economic impact upon Alaska and Alaskans as a source of tax revenues, employment, value-added industry and domestically consumed petroleum products. In order to continue its business operations in Alaska, Tesoro requires a stable, adequate supply of natural gas from the Cook Inlet natural gas producing fields.

Tesoro's recent experience of natural gas shortages, as related above, calls into question the representations made by ConocoPhillips and Marathon in the Export Application that "there is no regional need for the volume of LNG for which the Applicants are requesting export authority," and the related conclusion that the export

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1 authorization being sought "should not be found to be inconsistent with the public interest."9 2 By permitting Tesoro to intervene in this matter, Tesoro will be in a position to 3 represent its substantial interest in ensuring that adequate natural gas reserves and 4 deliverability will be available to meet the local domestic demand in Alaska. 5 All communications with respect to these matters should be addressed to: 6 7 Robin O. Brena, Esq. Anthony S. Guerriero, Esq. David W. Wensel, Esq. 8 Brena, Bell & Clarkson, P.C. 9 810 N Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 E-Mail: rbrena@brenalaw.com 10 aguerriero@brenalaw.com dwensel@brenalaw.com 11 12 Barron Dowling, Esq. Associate General Counsel, Supply 13 **Tesoro Corporation** 300 Concord Plaza Drive San Antonio, Texas 78216-6999 14 E-Mail: Bdowling@tsocorp.com 15 Motion for Additional Procedures. C. 16 Based upon the facts stated above, and pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 590.303, Tesoro 17 hereby moves for additional procedures as hereinafter specified. 18 19 20 Export Application at 23.

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1 determination regarding whether the proposed export of LNG is consistent with the public 2 interest, and for its ultimate decision on the Export Application. The discrepancies 3 between the representations made in the Export Application with regard to the natural gas 4 5 supply and demand balance in Southcentral Alaska, and Tesoro's actual experience with regard to that balance, dictate that Tesoro and other interested parties be provided the 6 opportunity to probe the representations made in the Export Application and to bring to 7

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DOE/OFE with regard thereto.

DOE/OFE and interested parties in the establishment of a complete and sound record, and

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10 C.F.R. § 590.

conjunction with the Export Application:

It is incumbent upon the DOE/OFE to establish a complete record as a basis for its

light facts and circumstances which are relevant to the determinations to be made by the

permit application process, including opportunities for comments, protests, conferences,

for that reason should be employed here. For the foregoing reasons, and based upon the

facts stated above, Tesoro hereby moves for the following additional procedures in

discovery and hearing. 10 Such additional procedures were designed to assist the

The DOE has established extensive administrative regulations which govern the

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1. An opportunity, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 590.310, to file reply comments to any comments filed by ConocoPhillips or Marathon in response to the Protest and Comments filed herewith by Tesoro.

- At the outset of this proceeding, a conference of the parties pursuant to 2. 10 C.F.R. § 590.311, to adjust or settle the proceedings, set schedules, delineate issues, stipulate certain issues of fact or law, set procedures, and consider other relevant matters. Such a preliminary conference will materially advance the proceeding in that it will provide an opportunity for the DOE/OFE and the parties to consider mutually acceptable terms and conditions upon which the Export Application could be approved, as well as to assist the DOE/OFE and the parties to focus on the issues to be addressed in the absence of a mutually acceptable result. Such a conference will provide the opportunity to save the expenditure of time, resources and effort, thereby streamlining the process.
- 3. An opportunity to conduct discovery as anticipated under 10 C.F.R. §§ 590.305, 306, 307 and 308, including, but not limited to, informal discovery, written interrogatories, requests for admission, requests for production of documents, the issuance of subpoenas, and depositions. In the absence of early resolution of the issues to be determined in this proceeding, such discovery will permit the parties to fully delve into the representations and arguments presented in the Export Application, and to build a complete record to form the basis of the DOE/OFE decision thereon.

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BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C. N STREET UITE 100 JRAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2000

4. The opportunity to participate in a public hearing in Anchorage, Alaska, to address the local public interest issues associated with the continued exportation of natural gas from the Cook Inlet.

- An opportunity to make an oral presentation, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. 5. § 590.312, for the purpose of identifying, illuminating and commenting upon any substantial question of fact, law, or policy at issue in the proceeding. Such presentation will materially assist the DOE/OFE in understanding the facts and circumstances at issue and the arguments of the parties, as well as provide the DOE/OFE with the opportunity to question the parties with regard to their positions.
- The opportunity to have an evidentiary trial-type hearing in Anchorage, 6. Alaska, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 590.313, for the purpose of allowing the presentation of argument, expert testimony, evidence, and cross-examination on material issues of fact genuinely in dispute in this proceeding. Such material issues of fact exist in this proceeding. As discussed above, Tesoro is experiencing actual shortages of Cook Inlet natural gas, while the Export Application represents there are sufficient supplies of Cook Inlet natural gas to both meet local demand and to export as proposed. Such issues are directly relevant to a DOE/OFE determination regarding whether the proposed LNG exports are in the public interest, and related considerations regarding Alaska's domestic need for the gas to be exported.

D. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

The NGA provides that, as a prerequisite to the exportation of natural gas from the United States, one must obtain permission from the DOE. The DOE is precluded from granting an export application if it finds that "the proposed exportation . . . will not be consistent with the public interest." The Export Application of ConocoPhillips and Marathon is premised upon the contention that there are sufficient supplies of natural gas in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska to meet domestic need, as well as to export as proposed.

The continued efficient operation of Tesoro's Kenai Refinery in Southcentral Alaska relies heavily upon the availability of dependable and consistent supplies of natural gas. Tesoro has recently experienced significant disruptions in the operation of its Kenai Refinery due to the unavailability of a natural gas supply, thereby calling into question the gas supply and demand picture which forms the basis for the Export Application.

The DOE has established extensive administrative regulations which govern the permit application process, including opportunities for comments, protests, discovery, oral presentations, and hearing.¹² Such procedures were designed to assist the DOE/OFE and the parties in considering and evaluating the matters at issue, and for the purpose of developing a full record as a basis for a decision on the Export Application.

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¹² 10 C.F.R. § 590.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. § 717b.

BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C. N STREET JITE 100 ANC RAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2006

1	VERIFICATION
2 3	STATE OF ALASKA)) ss. THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)
4567	Robin O. Brena, being first duly sworn upon his oath, states as follows: I am an attorney with the law offices of Brena, Bell & Clarkson, P.C., counsel for Tesoro Corporation and Tesoro Alaska Company in the above-referenced matter. I hereby certify that I have read the foregoing document, know the contents thereof, and believe that the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.
9	DATED this 9 th day of April, 2007.
10 11 12	ROBIN O. BRENA SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 9 th day of April, 2007.
13	Notary Public in and for Alaska My Commission Expires: 3/2/09
15 16	Wy Commission Express.
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BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C. N STREET ITE 100 ANG. JRAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2000

TESORO'S COMMENTS, PROTEST AND INITIAL MOTIONS FE Docket No. 07-02-LNG (April 9, 2007) Page 15

CERTIFICATION BY AUTHORIZED CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 590.103(b), the undersigned hereby certifies that he is the Vice President of Refining of Tesoro Alaska Company, and that Robin O. Brena of the law firm of Brena, Bell & Clarkson, P.C., is a duly authorized representative of Tesoro Corporation and Tesoro Alaska Company authorized to act on behalf of Tesoro Corporation and Tesoro Alaska Company in all matters relative to this proceeding.

DATED this 5th day of April, 2007.

TESORO CORPORATION
TESORO ALASKA COMPANY

Stephen W. Hansen

BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C.] 9 810 N STREET SUITE 100 NCHORAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2000

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The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 9th day of April, 2007, a copy of the foregoing document was served by e-mail and mail upon the following parties:

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Mr. Chris J. Sonnichsen

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BRENA, BELL &

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8	Douglas F. John, Esq.
9	Attorney for Marathon Oil Company John & Hengerer 1200 - 17 th Street N.W., Suite 600
10	Washington, D.C. 20036-3013 E-Mail: djohn@jhenergy.com Via DHL Express Mail
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12	Chiopina & Mushell
13	Avonna L. Murfitt
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BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C. IN STREET UITE 100 ANC. JORAGE, AK 99501 (907) 258-2000

APPENDIX A

Date	Actual Monthly Nomination (mmbtu)	Actual Delivered (mmbtu)
10/23/2006	Agrium shut operations e the largest i demand in So Alaska othe LNG Expor	liminating industrial outhcentral r than the
11/1/2006	15.5	16.34
11/2/2006	15.5	14.09
11/3/2006	14.5	11.05
11/4/2006		
11/5/2006	14.5	11.19
11/6/2006	14.5	7.85
11/7/2006		
11/8/2006		
11/9/2006		
11/10/2006		
11/11/2006		
11/12/2006		
11/13/2006		
11/14/2006		
11/15/2006 11/16/2006		
11/17/2006		
11/18/2006		
11/19/2006		
11/20/2006		
11/21/2006		
11/22/2006		6.97
11/23/2006	3 14.5	7.04
11/24/2006	3 14.5	6.96
11/25/2006	3 14.	
11/26/2006	-	
11/27/200		
11/28/200		
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12/1/200	_	-
12/2/200 12/3/200	•	
12/3/200		
12/4/200	•	=
12/6/200	•	
12/0/200	J 17.	

Date	Actual Monthly Nomination (mmbtu)	Actual Delivered (mmbtu)		
12/7/2006	14.5	7.33		
12/8/2006	14.5	7.57		
12/9/2006	14.5	9.18		
12/10/2006	14.5	9.17		
12/11/2006	14.5	9.07		
12/12/2006	14.5	7.29		
12/13/2006	14.5	7.22		
12/14/2006	14.5	7.46		
Tesoro allocates propane				
	due to fact			
12/15/2006	propane had as a substitu			
	undelivered			
12/15/2006		-		
12/16/2006				
12/17/2006				
12/18/2006		7.81		
12/19/2006				
12/20/2006		10.05		
12/21/2006		14.39		
12/22/2006		13.93		
12/23/2006	14.5	12.36		
12/24/2006	14.5	13.57		
Totals	785	452.81		

CERTIFICATION BY AUTHORIZED CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 590.103(b), the undersigned hereby certifies that he is the Vice President of Refining of Tesoro Alaska Company, and that Robin O. Brena of the law firm of Brena, Bell & Clarkson, P.C., is a duly authorized representative of Tesoro Corporation and Tesoro Alaska Company authorized to act on behalf of Tesoro Corporation and Tesoro Alaska Company in all matters relative to this proceeding.

DATED this 5th day of April, 2007.

TESORO CORPORATION
TESORO ALASKA COMPANY

Stephen W. Hansen

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